

# Wildflower Project

## Rising 6th graders!

Welcome to Middle School Science! Every year, we complete a special collection project in shells, wildflowers and insects. This year, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will collect pictures of wildflowers.



**Genesis 2:15** - “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” I have found as students go out to explore and discover the things of God’s creation, carefully studying their form and design, learning to identify the various organisms – they naturally begin to take ownership...to appreciate the beauty of God’s creation...and to take seriously their role in being good stewards of the land we in which we live.

## Finding Wildflowers:

It is not required to begin this project over the summer, but with all the time spent outdoors, you shouldn’t miss the opportunity! Believe it or not, you probably have several wildflowers growing in your back yard; wild strawberries, clover, dandelions, and even smaller wildflowers with blooms smaller than your pinky nail carpeting the whole yard in patches. Even more interesting is to go hiking in the woods or near the Chattahoochee River and discover flowers not commonly found in our suburban neighborhoods. You may collect your pictures of wildflowers from anywhere – not just in Georgia. If you’re going to beach, look around and see what you find. – Just please, do not explore highways or roadsides that lack sidewalks.

Other good places to find wildflowers are edges of sports fields, church properties or parking lots that are bordered by a natural tree line. I have also found power line easements to be quite thick with wildflowers (and snakes, so be careful).

## Taking pictures:

Most students use their parent’s smart phone as a camera. I suggest creating a folder and saving the photos there. Using a smartphone also records the location, and may allow you to add details about the flowers. It is vitally important that these photos are backed up to a device that students can easily access throughout the year. It has happened that students lost pictures of wildflowers from photos that were unintentionally deleted.

Tips for taking good close-ups with your smartphone <https://iphonephotographyschool.com/focus-tips/>

Enjoy your summer!

***Mrs. Kuzmin***

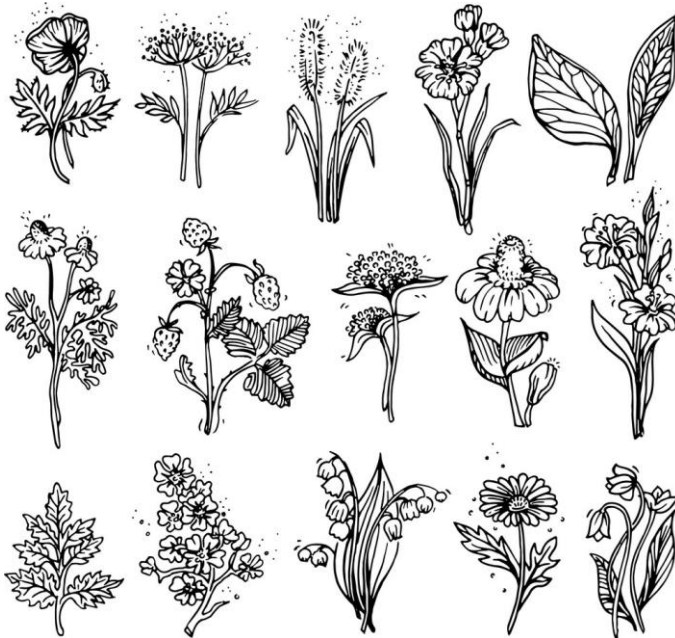


## START taking pictures THIS SUMMER!



**Wildflower** – a flower of an uncultivated variety, or a flower growing freely without human intervention.

**Overview:** It's time to get up close and discover God's amazing variety of wildflowers. Over the next school year, we will work together on a binder that contains wildflowers photos, drawings, and additional pages of diagrams, and essays. **For now, just go out and look for those flowers!**



### Directions:

- Take close up photos of 12 different wildflowers.
- Take several shots of the same plant to help with identifying the wildflower later on.
- To help with identification, your pictures need to include:
  - ❖ Blossoms
  - ❖ Leaves
  - ❖ Stems
- For each wildflower, record the following information: (For convenience, write it on an index card and snap photo of it after the flower.)
  - ❖ City and State
  - ❖ Name of the park and if it's a state or federal park
  - ❖ Description of the habitat. For example did you find the flower in the woods, along the roadside, in wetlands, or in a meadow, etc...?

### What NOT to take pictures of:

- **Do not** take photos **along highways** as it is **illegal** to stop and I don't want you **getting hit**.
- No blooms/flowers from trees or bushes.
- Do not take pictures of flowers from someone's cultivated garden, plant nursery or other garden store.
- Do not use photos from the internet, other students or from other media sources.

### Planning your project:

START THIS SUMMER! Different species of wildflowers bloom at different times throughout the Spring, Summer AND early Fall. This project will be due BEFORE next Spring, so you should collect all your pictures and facts by October. Then you have the remainder of the semester to focus on identifying your flowers and working on other parts of your project. You will be given *some* class time to work on this project but it is primarily an at home project.

Tentative Due Date: March 2021